

What is hazardous? You’d be surprised how many things you use are considered hazardous waste. Find these potential hazardous wastes in the word search.
(The words may be forwards, backwards, or diagonal.)

Antifreeze	Fertilizer	Gasoline	Oven Cleaner
Batteries	Fingernail Polish	Medicine	Paint
Bleach	Fluorescent Light Bulb	Motor Oil	Shoe Polish



What should I do? If you think something might be hazardous and you need to throw it away, follow these steps:

1. **Ask an adult for help. NEVER handle hazardous materials yourself.**
2. Ask Mom or Dad to read the label – does it have a warning? If so, treat it as hazardous.
3. Ask yourself, “Can this still be used?” A half-full can of paint may not be useful to you any more, but someone else may want it. Some areas have hazardous waste exchanges where you can drop off chemicals, paint, and other items that someone else may want.
4. If no one wants it, take it to a household hazardous waste collection site. Have Mom or Dad call your city or county about a local collection site or pickup day.

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Let’s Talk Trash: What To Do With the Garbage in Your Home

In a lifetime, each person throws away over 100,000 pounds of trash – that’s 2,500 garbage cans full! About half of that could have been recycled.

Will you help solve this trashy problem?



What have you thrown away today?


- ☐ An empty toilet paper roll?
- ☐ Toys you’re too old for?
- ☐ A pop can?
- ☐ A paper towel?
- ☐ Your homework? (Oops!)
- ☐ Dead batteries from your Game Boy?

When we throw things away, we fill up our garbage dumps, called “landfills.” Energy (such as electricity) and raw materials (such as wood) are then needed to replace what we threw away. Some things we throw away can be hazardous to our health or bad for the environment if they go into a landfill.

Instead of throwing things away, use the three “R’s”:
reduce, reuse, recycle.

Reduce: Not using something in the first place. If you only buy one item at the store, don’t put it in a bag.

Reuse: Using things again. Ask your parents to bring their old grocery bags back to the store and use them again. Cloth bags work, too!

Recycle: Making something new out of something old. When something can’t be reused any more (you used the same bag so many times that it ripped), it may be able to be recycled. If so, put it in a recycling bin. A new bag can be made out of the old one. Look for this symbol  and check to see what your local recycler will accept.



Think you got it? Unscramble the words below to show what you can do!

I can separate items out of my garbage that can be made into something new.

I can RYLECEC _____!

I can use scrap cardboard, ribbon, paper, cloth, etc. for art projects.

I can RSEUE _____!

I can write on both sides of one piece of paper, instead of using two pieces.

I can REEUDC _____!

Look again at the list on the cover. Match the garbage with the better alternative.

Garbage	Alternative
Empty toilet paper roll	REUSE. Give them to your kid brother, a neighbor, or a charity.
Old toys	QUICK! Get it out of the garbage and turn it in! If it is old, recycle the paper.
Pop can	RECYCLE. It’s cardboard and can be recycled. Put it in your recycling bin.
Paper towel	REUSE or RECYCLE. Some can be recharged. Check first before you buy new ones. If yours can’t be recharged, take them to a recycling center. They contain chemicals that don’t belong in a landfill!
Homework (Oops!)	REDUCE. If you can, use a cloth towel instead. (Generally best not to try to recycle a used paper one.)
Dead batteries	RECYCLE. Put aluminum in the recycling bin.



Wait! You’re not done yet!

You’ve reduced, reused, and recycled all you can. Should you just throw the rest into the garbage can? Not yet.

Some common things in our homes can be dangerous if we just throw them away. These are called “Household Hazardous Wastes.” Watch for things that say “**poison,**” “**danger,**” or “**warning**” on the label. Some other products may be hazardous, too, even if they don’t have these words. If you think something might be hazardous, ask an adult for help. **NEVER handle hazardous materials yourself.**